

Log Steps

*The Official Newsletter of
the Junior Ranger Program*



Session I / II

June 1 – July 2, 2015

Jr. Ranger Accomplishments

- 22 Miles of Trail Maintained
- 8 Acres of Trees Chipped
- 3 Capital Trail Projects
- 50 Participants
- 13 Program Graduates
- Partnered with FEMP, IPM, Water Resources, NTSA Planning Youth Engagement & Trails
- Skills built in trails & resource management, teamwork, problem solving, environmental stewardship & community leadership
- Environmental Education partnerships with OSMP Rangers, Cure Farms, Outreach, NTSA Analysis, Fire Management & Growing Up Boulder
- Lifelong connections with JR Crewmembers!

Just keep digging
Respect the trail and teammates

Rain protection
Always prepared
Never give up
Gaining friendship and knowledge
Experiences that will last a lifetime
Responsible and resilient
Safety first!

- Crew 3 -



Youth Engagement in OSMP

- Crew 2 -

The City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) is developing a community vision for Boulder's open space in the North Trail Study Area (TSA). The plan aims to improve visitor experiences and increase trail sustainability while still conserving the area's natural, cultural and agricultural resources. In an effort to engage Boulder's youth in the planning process, Crew 2 was selected to share their thoughts and recommendations during a planning workshop. We were asked to reflect and consider past OSMP experiences and identify things that could be changed to ensure the optimal hiking experience.

We felt honored that they came to us and gave us a chance to participate in the decision making process at such a young age. It was nice to have a day to think and reflect on our times in OSMP and

have fun with the crew, while you know you're contributing to something real. We learned how much time, detail and effort goes into the planning process and took an active role discussing our recommendations for the North TSA.

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The topics discussed ranged from mountain biking and leash laws to the need for detailed folding map at trail heads. Tori and Deryn were incredibly responsive to our new ideas and we felt like our voices were being heard. We could teach them about new things that they hadn't considered before, like hammocking, an activity that involves a group of friends hiking to a particular spot and setting up hammocks to relax, listen to music and enjoy nature.



Top Ten Reasons to be a

JUNIOR RANGER

- Crew 4 -

10.) Woolly caterpillars, deer, and all the other critters you meet on the way to the . . .

9.) . . . best lunch vistas in Boulder!

8.) Farmer's tans are a badge of pride, and the . . .

7.) . . . awesome sunshine yellow uniforms helped provide them.

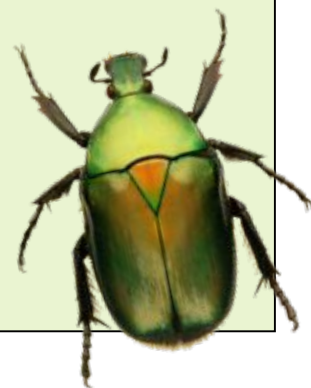
6.) Getting to work with all the different Open Space and Mountain Parks crews working toward . . .

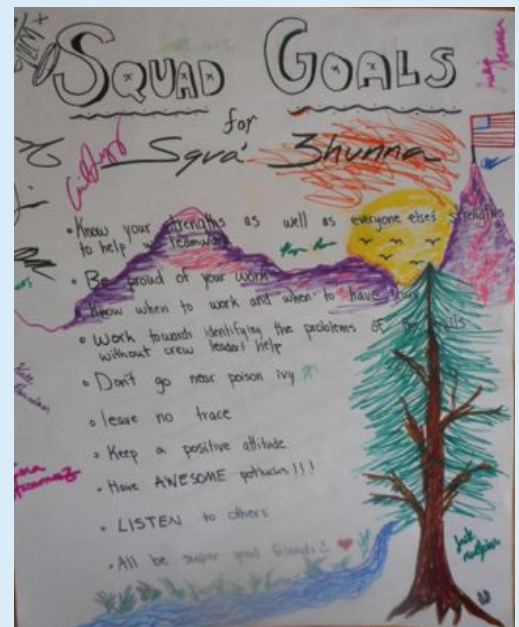
5.) Sustainable trails! So we can . . .

4.) . . . give back to Boulder, to the youth community, and the environment at the same time.

2.) Hiking being our primary mode of transportation when not in . . .

1.) Susan! (Our beloved Suburban)





50 Shades of Red, White, and Blue

A Tale of Patriotism on the Trail

We are proud to be ‘Mericans, where we know
our trails are free.

Like our trails, our ambitions are a mile high;
In our hearts eagles fly, and by our hand
social trails die.

Large piles of dirt only temporarily hurt;
Until new grass begins growing fast.

Like the duff piles we swing,

Rock piles take wing;

Our trailwork is precise,

Just like our pick strikes.

Land of the free, home of the brave,

To friendly passersby we wave.

We work hard every day,

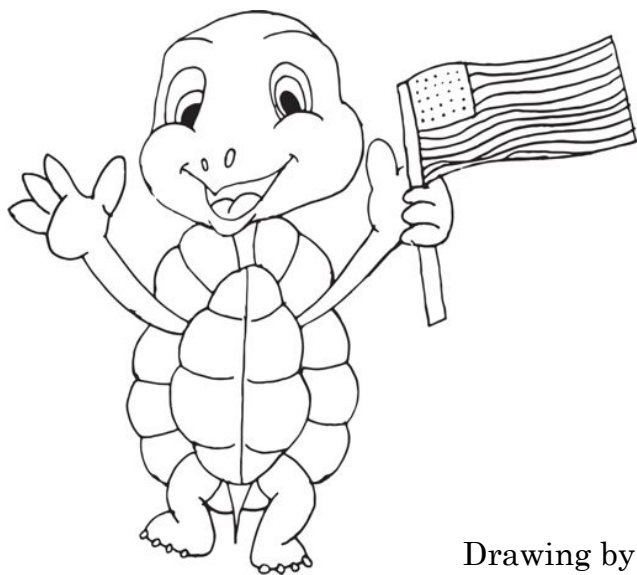
Hard work forever pays.

Like the bald eagle singing aloud,

We make our founding fathers proud.

There's no place we'd rather be.

By Crew 1 a.k.a. Mountain Turtles



Drawing by Dina Brown



When you first join Junior Rangers, no one tells you that you will become obsessed with the work you do. No one tells you how proud you will become of your work, but you'll learn that's what being a Junior Ranger is about. You'll start taking your friends on hikes and pointing out the water bars you did. You'll realize that whenever you're on the trail you'll be envisioning how the water flows.

- Liam McDonald
4th Year JR
Crew 3



Crew 5's Advice for Prospective Junior Rangers

1. Start early: It gives you the opportunity to try out Junior Rangers to see if you like it. If you like it, you can continue for 3 more years. If you don't like the program, you still have time to explore other summer options.
2. Apply early to secure an interview time that fits your schedule. Spend enough time on the online interview questions, because they factor into the hiring process.
3. For the interview, be enthusiastic! Crew leaders want people on the crew who want to be there and who can work well with others.
4. Make the crewmembers your friends. It is more enjoyable to work with people you like being around, and makes the taxing, hot days feel more fulfilling.
5. A positive attitude will make your time better, no matter how hard the work or how hot the day.
6. Insider's Tip: Bring a frozen beverage to work every day. It is a refreshing and hydrating snack.
7. Don't be afraid if the Suburbans we drive around look sketchy. Our crew had a plant growing in ours, and it ran just fine.
8. Be cautious of your surroundings. Watch for nature, hikers, and fellow Junior Rangers.
9. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Everyone has had a different experience when it comes to trail maintenance and we're all working together towards a common goal.
10. Be open to new knowledge and don't be afraid to share yours!

Reflections on Four Years as a Junior Ranger

Both: Back in 2012 when we were first years, we came into this job expecting it to be monotonous work. Instead, what we found it that Junior Rangers is a tight knit community that we were invited to be a part of well beyond the summer. It seems to us that hard work in the blazing sun has a way of bringing people together that we couldn't have imagined before joining this program.

Ailish: When I was a first year, I was on a crew that still, even to this day, works hard to see each other every year. I've had phenomenal mentors and now I have gotten to experience being a mentor to younger crewmembers. This is a program that brings people of different ages and backgrounds together. It is something that I have really appreciated because not only have I created lasting friendships, I've gained knowledge of sustainable trail building and the benefits of learning how to do manual labor. It will be an experience that I will always remember.

Carl: I think I will always remember my first year; what started off as a way to occupy the summer and make some money while being outdoors ended as an almost magical experience. I think that first summer with the program will always be a part of me. A combination of hard work, shared experiences and committed friendships is something I will always remember.

Both: Junior Rangers has given us some of our fondest memories. The lessons we have learned here will help us in the future and throughout our lives. We deeply appreciate this opportunity and the experiences it has afforded us. *drops mic*

- Ailish McDonald & Carl Solway, Crew 1 -





Flatirons - Kyra Pease - Crew 3



Community.
Communi-tree.
Do you see what I see?
The forest, it's in me.

Communication
For the nation
Inspired by our dedication
To this station.

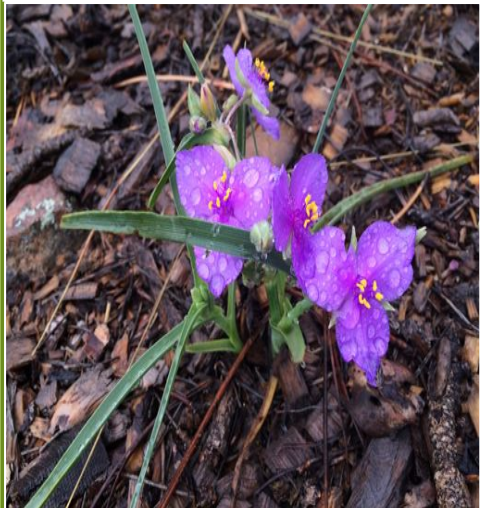
This job we posses
Requires finesse.
But I digress,
We define success.

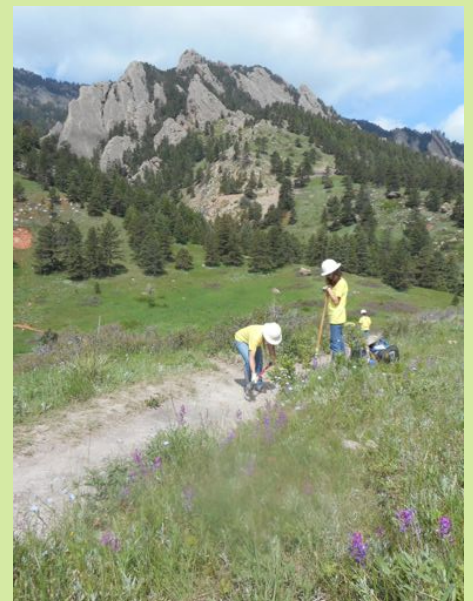
"Respect the trees,"
Said the Lorax to me.
"For if you cut down these trees
I will not be pleased."

Unless those trees
Restore praries.
My freehiking has steeze,
So puh-lease.

We shape our world
Like we shape our trails.
With the buckets we curled
And futures unfurled.

Crew 2 Slam Poetry
By Logan Garby (Featuring Crew 2)





Junior Rangers Embodying Nature

(Fun facts we learned in the field from our crew leader about local fauna. Featuring Crew 1 as the animals.)



Ailish the mountain lion can jump 15 feet high and 40 feet long. She prefers to lie on the boughs of trees, watching her surroundings while remaining hidden. Her jaw muscle is much stronger than a human jaw muscle, and can easily kill with one bite.

Carl the rattlesnake has a diamond shaped head, which helps to signify that he is venomous. He also rattles his tail to ward off potential threats.

Patrick the bull snake mimics the rattlesnake, hoping that his show will offer him protection. He eats many rodents as well.

Brodie the bald eagle has excellent vision for hunting prey, as well as long talons for grabbing prey. He mates with female eagles during a free fall, to prove his worth.

Max the ladybug is formally known as a Ladybird Beetle. During the winter, he will join his brethren at a high altitude for hibernation, away from predators. When threatened, he produces a yellow liquid from his knees to ward off predators.

Emily the slug has eye stalks that, when touched, retreat into her head for protection. Her anus is also located above her back, and she excretes waste over herself.

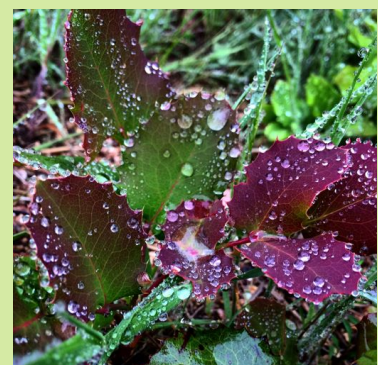
Alison the mushroom is the reproductive part of a fungus; people all around the world recognize her stalk and cap. Her main tissue lies underground in the form of hyphae, which are long, thin strands of fungus. One of her relatives, a honey fungus, is thought to be the largest living organism in the world, measuring 2.4 miles across.

Dina the pill bug is one of the few land crustaceans. To protect herself from threats, she rolls up into a ball.

Ben the bat has a social life similar to humans in many ways; he hugs and kisses for affection, his bat sisters have midwives, and he takes vacations to other colonies.

Ari the Abert's squirrel is black with big ear tufts. She has a mutualistic relationship with the ponderosa pine tree, living her whole life there.

Mannon the black bear is sometimes mistaken for a brown bear, because her fur is not always black. She loves to scavenge for food, but in the winter she will hibernate, because food is not as readily available.





What To Do When You Encounter a Junior Ranger In Its Natural Habitat

1. Junior Rangers are friendly creatures who are more afraid of you than you are of them.
2. Please stay on the trail; it is part of the Junior Rangers' responsibility to give trail users the right of way.
3. Junior Rangers are sociable creatures that travel in packs (commonly called crews). They have adapted to the English language and enjoy friendly conversation.
4. Junior Rangers are attracted to shiny objects. Any trash found on the trail distracts them from their work. Please be conscious of what you leave behind.

*Note: Junior Rangers may beg for food. Do Not Feed Them!
5. Because the Junior Ranger program is funded by the public, for the public, they value your questions, comments, and feedback.

- Crew 5 -



BIKE TO WORK DAY 2015



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Thank You Jr. Rangers!

The Junior Ranger Program has included local teens in priority natural resource management projects since 1965. Junior Rangers learn job skills, discover Open Space and Mountain Parks, perform in a team environment, and engage in stewardship building opportunities. Motivated teens work together to make a difference for the land and their community.



Session I/II * [June 1 – July 2]

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OSMP Junior Rangers

66 S Cherryvale Road, Boulder
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<https://bouldercolorado.gov/osmp/junior-rangers>

